

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, claims 6-17 having been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 and 18 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1-5 and 18 can be found, for example, in original claims 1-5 and 18 and in the instant specification at page 13, line 7 to page 15, line 15. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,482,896 to Tang ("Tang"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a] method of manufacturing a light emitting display panel, comprising: laminating at least a flexible base layer, a first electrode layer, an EL layer, a second electrode layer and a flexible sealing layer in order; wherein: the flexible base layer is attached to a rigid flat plate during lamination of one or more of the first electrode layer, the EL layer, the second electrode layer and the flexible sealing layer to the flexible base layer; the flexible base layer is removed from the rigid flat plate prior to completion of the method; and the flexible base layer comprises a thin glass sheet and a protective plastic sheet, and has sufficient flexibility to be freely rolled and/or curved" (emphasis added). Tang does not teach or suggest such a method.

The Office Action asserts that Tang discloses a method of manufacturing a light emitting display panel formed by laminating at least a flexible base layer 101, a first electrode layer 204, an EL layer 206, a second electrode layer 207 and a flexible sealing layer 208. The Office Action further asserts that Tang discloses that the flexible base layer 101 is provisionally attached to a rigid flat plate 102. Notwithstanding these assertions, Tang does not anticipate and would not have rendered obvious the method of claim 1.

Claim 1 requires a flexible base layer comprising a thin glass sheet and a protective plastic sheet, the flexible base layer having sufficient flexibility to be freely rolled and/or curved. The Office Action correctly points out that Tang discloses a method in which an ultra thin substrate 101 is releasably laminated to a thick rigid temporary support 102 and subsequently delaminated. *See* column 3, lines 24 to 26; column 5, lines 44 to 47. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Tang that the ultra thin substrate 101 comprises a thin glass sheet and a protective plastic sheet, or that the ultra thin substrate 101 has sufficient flexibility to be freely rolled and/or curved, as recited in claim 1. Tang discloses that the ultra thin substrate 101 is formed preferably of glass or possibly of plastic. *See* column 3, lines 29 to 36. There is no remote teaching or suggestion in Tang that a flexible base layer comprising a thin glass sheet and a protective plastic sheet could or should be used as the ultra thin substrate 101.

The configuration of the flexible base layer of claim 1 permits the layer to be rolled and/or curved so as to be attached to or incorporated in various objects. *See* instant specification, page 13, lines 24 to 28. Exemplary objects could include thin-film panel displays, band-shaped panel displays, circular panel displays, etc. *See, e.g.,* instant specification, page 2, lines 12 to 17. There is no teaching or suggestion in Tang that a layer having such flexibility should be employed. The EL device disclosed in Tang is used in an application where flexibility would not be necessary (an LED array in a printer). *See* column 3, lines 7 to 16. In addition, Tang discloses that the ultra thin substrate 101 should have "dimensional stability." *See* column 3, line 34. These disclosures do not suggest and are not consistent with a base layer having sufficient flexibility to be freely rolled and/or curved.

As Tang does not teach or suggest a flexible base layer comprising a thin glass sheet and a protective plastic sheet, the flexible base layer having sufficient flexibility to be freely rolled and/or curved, Tang does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 1.

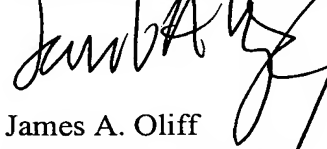
Claim 1 is not anticipated by Tang. Claims 2-5 and 18 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Tang. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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